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Education + P.H (195) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. 3306 P.H

12

Dated 30-9-1947

[Despatch Abstract.]

Memorandum of the Ex-Army Medical Officers' Association regarding the reservation of vacancies for war service candidates, etc.

To

The Hon'ble the Minister for Public Health,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir,

We the deputationists representing the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association have been directed to place before you the following for your consideration.

We desire to interview and discuss with you the matters mentioned below and will feel very grateful if you can receive us at an early date for this purpose.

G.O. number 1179 dated 21.3.1941 and Press Note No. 137, Fort St. George dated 2.9.1941 specifically laid down that all substantive vacancies of Civil Assistant Surgeons and Civil Sub Assistant Surgeons arising during the period of the war would be filled by candidates with war service.

This policy has subsequently been changed. The final orders of Government on the subject are embodied in G.O. Ms. No. 821 dated 15.3.1947. According to this order although the period of reservation of vacancies has been extended upto 31.3.1947, only 66 2/3% of the vacancies will be filled by candidates with war service. We wish to point out that due to the magnificent response that this Presidency gave in the matters of volunterring for army service over 1200 doctors have war service to their credit and the large majority of them have now been demobilised. Of these it is computed that not less than 1000 were not in permanent Government employ at the time of recruitment.

Our information is that among these volunteers roughly 50% were graduates and 50% non-graduates. On the figures given in the above G.O. this would mean approximately.

Percentage absorbed if all vacancies are filled by war service candidates.	Percentage absorbed if reservation is restricted to 66 2/3%.	Percentage unprovided.
Graduates 54% (279 vacancies).	Graduates 36% (186 vacancies).	Graduates 67%.
Non-graduates (men). 25% (128 vacancies).	Non-graduates 16.5% (186 vacancies).	Non-graduates. ~~8~~ 8.5%.

The figures given are approximate but in our opinion they are if anything an understatement.

It is therefore clear that even if all vacancies were given to candidates with war service they would still be a large proportion left unprovided. The reduction to 66 2/3% entails further hardship.

Many of these young men are aware that even with the best of intentions Government can find employment for ~~en~~ only a minority among them. They would consequently like to know

the results of their selection or otherwise expeditiously so that they can chalk out their future courses. Some of them have been interviewed nearly one year ago and many await to be interviewed. This protracted period of waiting while the little resources they have conserved are steadily dwindling is causing much discontentment and loss of morale.

Also some of the junior men joined the army without having had the advantage of working in house-appointments. There is dissatisfaction to the 3 weeks' refresher course that has been arranged as being wholly inadequate and those that are giving this training are stated to be in some instances very junior doctors without any extensive experience. We feel that a more extended and intensive course handled by more senior members of the profession is essential.

With regard to more senior doctors many of them held Honorary appointments in the State Hospitals at the time of volunterring for service. They were given the assurance.

(1) that they would have a lien on the appointments they were holding at the time of recruitment. Vide Press Note No. 49 dated Fort St. George, 7th April 1941.

(2) That other vacancies would be available to war service candidates by reason of serving Honorary Medical Officers having completed their 5 years' terms of office or having attained the age 55 years.

(3) That senior appointments would be available to candidates with special qualifications - vide Press Note No. 137, Fort St. George dated 2.9.1941.

Notwithstanding these assurances, we find that:-

(1) Honorary Medical Officers have either to obtain fresh orders of appointment to resume their former places involving long periods of waiting or never get them at all.

(2) Honorary appointments are made for a period of one year only irrespective of their unexpired period of original five years term of office and contrary to the hope that many were permitted to entertain of getting a five year term.

(3) There are several instances were Honorary Medical Officers continue to hold their appointments for many more than five years to the exclusion of war service candidates.

(4) There is not a single instance where a volunteer who gave up a good practice and or had special qualifications has been appointed to a suitable senior appointment.

(5) At a time when the clamour is all for more doctors and more skilled doctors well-qualified are forced to lead a life of idleness due to inability to obtain the necessary appurtenances to engage in practice.

We wish once again to impress on you that even if all paid and as many Honorary appointments as possible were given to war service candidates there would still be a large number having to settle down to private practice.

Owing to the difficult post-war conditions many of such doctors are unable to settle down because of:-

(1) Want of suitable accommodation.
(2) Want of necessary equipment.
(3) Want of a conveyance.
(4) Inability to obtain building material to provide themselves with suitable places.

We are aware that the general public share these disadvantages with us but feel that Government can without entailing hardship on others render us a certain degree of help in the above matters by fixing suitable priorities.

Many officers have had to educate their children in different parts of India and they are finding on their return that admission of their children into technical and general educations institutions is very difficult. The deputation feels that children of doctors with war service are entitled to special consideration in this respect.

In conclusion we wish to point out that a certain number of volunteers were unable to go abroad for higher studies. It is impossible under present conditions for many of these to make individual private arrangements. The deputation feels that it would be reasonable to reserve a certain percentage of overseas scholarships for advanced studies to war service candidates.

We have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd) C.R. Kaishna
Lt. Colonel,
President, Ex-Indian Army
Medical Officers' Association,
Honorary Surgeon, General
Hospital, Madras.

(Sd) M. Krishnamurthi,
Lt. Colonel,
Vice President, Ex-Indian
Army Medical Officers'
Association.

(Sd) M.A. Nair,
Member of Ex-Indian Army
Medical Officers' Association
and Honorary Ophthalmic
Surgeon, Government Royapuram
Hospital.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Education and Public Health Department.

Memorandum No. 52887/D1/47-1, P.H. dated 23.9.1947.

Sub:- Memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association regarding reservation of vacancies for war service candidates, etc.

Ref:- From the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association, dated NIL.

The Government have carefully considered the several points raised in the Memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association and they pass the following orders:-

(1) Reservation of vacancies for war service candidates and their appointment:-

The matter is ~~under consideration~~ awaiting the attention of Government.

(2) Refresher courses:- The matter is under consideration.

(3) Scholarships for Overseas training:- The Government are unable to comply with the request of the Association to reserve a certain percentage of overseas scholarships for higher training to war service candidates.

(4) Preference to children of medical officers with war service in the matter of admission to medical colleges:-

The Government see no reason to comply with the request.

(5) Honorary appointments:- The question of revising the term & and conditions of service of Honorary Medical Officers is under the consideration of Government. The request made in the Memorandum will be considered in due course.

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To

Lt. Col. C.R. Krishnaswamy, President, Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association and Honorary Surgeon, Government General Hospital, Madras.

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EDUCATION & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTT.

A draft is submitted below for approval. Issue and record the papers.

x x x x

23.9.1947.

G.O. Ms. No. 3306, Public Health, dated 30.9.1947.

Memorandum of the Ex-Army Medical Officers' Association regarding the reservation of vacancies for war service candidates, etc - Papers recorded.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s.

Extract from the Memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association to the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health.

Reservation of vacancies for war service candidates.

G.O. No. 1179, dated 21.3.1941 and Press Note No. 137, Fort St. George dated 2.9.1941 specifically laid down that all substantive vacancies of Civil Assistant Surgeons and Civil Sub Assistant Surgeons arising during the period of the war would be filled by candidates with war service.

This policy has subsequently been changed. The final orders of Government on the subject are embodied in G.O. No. 821, dated 15.3.1947. According to this order although the period of reservation of vacancies has been extended upto 31.3.1947, only 66 2/3% of the vacancies will be filled by candidates with war service. We wish to point out that due to the magnificent response that this Presidency gave in the matter of volunteering for army service over 12,00 doctors have war service to their credit and the large majority of them have now been demobilised. Of these it is computed that not less than 1,000 were not in permanent Governmen employ at the time of recruitment.

Our information is that among these volunteers roughly 50% were gradudates and 50% non-graduates. On the figures given in the above G.O. this would mean approximately.

Percentage absorbed if all vacancies are filled by war service candidates.	Percentage absorbed if reservation is restricted to 66 2/3%.	Percentage unprovided.
Graduates 54%. (279 vacancies).	Graduates 36%. (186 vacancies).	Graduates 67%.
Non-graduates (Men). 25%. (128 vacancies).	Non-graduates. 16.5%. (86 vacancies).	Non-gradudates. (83.5%.

The figures given are approximate but in our opinion they are if anything an understatement.

It is therefore clear that even if all vacancies were given to candidates with war service they would still be a large proportion left unprovided. The reduction to 66 2/3% entails further hardship.

Many of these young men are aware that even with the best of intentions Government can find employment for only a minority among them. They would consequently like to know the results of their selection or otherwise expeditiously so that they can chalk out their future courses. Some of them have been interviewed. This protracted period of waiting while the little resources they have conserved are steadily dwindling is causing much discontentment and loss of morale.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Remarks.

Please see Memorandum above. In G.O. No. 821, Public

(Services) the Government have decided as to how the reserved vacancies should be allocated among war service candidates and temporary Government servants. According to this, G.O. 66 and 2/3 per cent of the vacancies will be allotted to candidates with war service and the remaining 33 and 1/3 per cent will go to civilians who have been holding the posts temporarily.

It is expected that the result of the selection of war service candidates will be known by the end of August 1947 and afterwards the Government may take a little time to make the appointments. No immediate action is possible. Temporary appointment are being made as and when necessary.

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28.7.

P.S.V.
29.7.

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Extract from the Memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association to the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health

Refresher courses.

Also some of the junior men joined the army without having had the advantage of working in house-appointments. There is dissatisfaction to the 3 weeks' refresher course that has been arranged as being wholly inadequate and those that are giving this training are stated to be in some instances very junior doctors without any extensive experience. We feel that a more extended and intensive course handled by more senior members of the profession is essential. - - - - -

Education & Public Health Dept

Remarks.

- - - - - -In 1940, the Government sanctioned the proposal to start a £ refresher course in Medicine for registered Medical Practitioners in the Medical Colleges at Madras and Vizagapatam. The course was suspended for the duration of the war. The Government have since revived the refresher courses for the benefit of war service Medical Officers in the Government General Hospital and the Stanley Hospital, Madras. The course will cover subjects like general Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery and Specialities like infectious diseases, tropical medicine skin and veneral diseases and laboratory methods. The duration of the course is three weeks. The deputationists state that the 3 weeks' £ refresher course is inadequate and consider that a more extended and intensive course handled by more senior members of the profession is essential. The remarks of the Surgeon-General on the above suggestion may be obtained. For orders.

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The Education Sub Committee of the Public Health Conference can consider this point also.

P.S.V.
29.7.

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Extract from the memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association to the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health

Honorary appointments.

With regard to more senior doctors many of them held Honorary appointments in the State Hospitals at the time of volunteering for service. They were given the assurances:-

(1) That they would have a lien on the appointments they were holding at the time of recruitment. vide Press Note No. 49 dated Fort St. George dated 7.4.1941.

(2) That other vacancies would be available to war service candidates by reason of serving Honorary Medical Officers having completed their 5 years' terms of office or having attained the age 55 years.

(3) That senior appointments would be available to candidates with special qualifications'- vide Press Note No. 137, Fort St. George, dated 2.9.1941.

Notwithstanding these assurances, we find that:-

(1) Honorary Medical Officers have either to obtain fresh orders of appointment to resume their former places involving long periods of waiting or never get them at all.

(2) Honorary appointments are made for a period of one year only irrespective of their unexpired period of original five years term of office and contrary to the hope that many were permitted to entertain of getting a five year term.

(3) There are several instances where Honorary Medical Officers continue to hold their appointments for many more than five years to the exclusion of war service candidates.

(4) There is not a single instance where a volunteer who gave up a good practice and or had special qualifications has been appointed to a suitable senior appointment.

(5) At a time when the clamour is all for more doctors and more skilled doctors well-qualified men are forced to lead a life of idleness due to inability to obtain the necessary appurtenances to engage in practice.

We wish once again to impress on you that even if all paid and as many Honorary appointments as possible were given to war service candidates there would still be a large number having to settle down to private practice.

Owing to the difficult post-war conditions many of such doctors are unable to settle down because of:-

(1) Want of suitable accommodation.
(2) Want of necessary equipment.
(3) Want of a conveyance.
(4) Inability to obtain building material to provide themselves with suitable places.

"We are aware that the general public share these disadvantages with us but feel that Government can without entailing hardship on others render us a certain degree of help in the above matters by fixing suitable priorities.

Education and Public Health Department.

REMARKS.

The Press Notes dated 7.1.1941 and 2.9.1941 referred to by the Association relates only to Government Medical Officers who have proceeded on military duty. No promise has been held out to the honoraries that they would have lien on appointments they were holding at the time of recruitment nor that they would be given preference in the matter of senior posts in Government, after returned from military service.

2. With a view to provide appointments for honoraries, who have volunteered for military service, the Government have merely laid down that all honorary appointments made after 8.12.1942, should not be blocked by the 5 years rule but be limited to a period not exceeding 5 years, so that the substitutes appointed during the duration of the war may be replaced at any time. After the war is over all honorary appointments made were generally for a period not exceeding one year only as demobilization of medical officers has been taking place in batches. This rule is being applied even to honorary medical officers who have returned from war. The idea is not to terminate their services after a period of one year as the Association would seem to fear. The Government have recently issued orders in G.O. No. 1643, Public Health, dated 12.5.1947 asking the Surgeon-General to advertise all vacancies of honorary posts which have arisen after 8.12.1942 including those which are now held by war returned honoraries and submit to Government proposals for filling them up from among war returned candidates. The applications may be from honoraries who proceeded for war service and also from the private candidates, who have done military service. The Surgeon-General while submitting proposals will no doubt take into account the claims of honoraries who have proceeded for military duty and also previous experience in recommending for suitable posts.

3. The request of the Association to help them in the matter of settling down as private practitioners is vague.

B

I do not think it is within the scope of the Committee

4. The Government have recently formed a special committee to examine all questions relating to medical relief in detail. The Committee will presumably consider also the question relating to appointment of war returned candidates including honoraries. The request of the association may be placed before theCommittee.

P.S.V.

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'A' above:- We cannot help the difficulties felt by the doctors owing to post-war conditions. If we are able to implement the specific promises made by us, they ought to be satisfied.

'B' above:- The Committee is competent to advise on a reorganization of the whole system of honorary doctors, but not on the question of appointment of war, returned honoraries as such. Whatever general decision the Committee comes to will have to be examined before implementation. We have to examine the question of war returned honoraries on the basis of the promises given by us and the changes if any that have been subsequently made in the relevant G.Os.

P.S.V.
29.7.

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Extract from the Memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association ~~&~~ to the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health.

Admission of doctor's children in technical, etc institutions

Many officers have had to educate their children in different parts of India and they are finding on their return that admission of their children into technical and general educations institutions is very difficult. The deputation feels that children of doctors with war service are entitled to special consideration in this respect.

Education and Public Health Deptt.

Remarks.

At present, children of doctors with war service are not entitled to any special consideration in the matter of admission to medical colleges. The question of giving preference to children of medical men in general was considered many times in several aspects in the past. The Government held the view that such a course would tend to create a 'new kind of caste-system' in the profession. Similarly, children of lawyers may ask for preference for admission to Law Colleges and children of Engineers for admission to Engineering Colleges. This would tend to a reservation of seats for children of men of the respective professions and curtailment of the number of seats available for other people. Such a course would be open to criticism having regard to the very limited number of seats in the professional institutions and the very keen competition now existing especially in the matter of admissions to the Medical and Engineering Colleges.

In the circumstances there seems to be no justification to show any special consideration to children of doctors with war service in the matter of admission to medical colleges. They may compete equally with others, if qualified.

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P.S.V.
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Extract from the memorandum submitted by the Ex-Indian Army Medical Officers' Association to the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health.

Scholarships.

In conclusion we wish to point out that a certain number of volunteers were unable to go abroad for higher studies It is impossible ~~f~~under present conditions for ~~f~~many of these to make individual private arrangements. The deputation feels that it would be reasonable to reserve a certain percentage of overseas scholarships for advanced studies to war service candidates.

Education & Public Health Deptt.

Remarks.

With a view to meet the full requirements of this

teaching departments, the Surgeon-General suggested in March 1947 that a Scheme for the training of candidates might be instituted by Government and that candidates may be selected by advertisement on the analogy of the arrangement made for the selection of candidates for overseas training under the Government of India scheme or alternatively that the selection of candidates might be made from among the war service candidates who have been successful in the competitive examination held by the Madras Public Service Commission. In view of the fact that the Government of India have instituted a scheme for higher training abroad, it was considered unnecessary to have a separate scheme. Further the selection of candidates with war service by the Madras Public Service Commission has not yet been made. In the above circumstances the Surgeon-General's proposal has been deferred. The Surgeon-General is being asked to draw up a scheme taking into account the qualified candidates available in service and those that are likely to be available from among war returned candidates. It does not seem necessary to consider the request of the Association at 'A' above pending the selection of war service candidates by the Commission.

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28.7.

It is not safe to comit ourselves now to any more promises to any special class of medical men. They can take the turn along with other candidates, if they are good enough.

P.S.V.
29.7.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s.

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